

TESTIMONY
BUDGET COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
SENATOR JUDY LEE, CHAIRMAN
JANUARY 20, 2004

Chairman Lee and members of the Budget Committee on Health Care, my name is Linda Wright, Director of the Aging Services Division, Department of Human Services. I appear before you today in response to your request for a status report regarding the Service Payments for Elderly and Disabled (SPED) pursuant to the Attorney General's opinion.

The Attorney General's opinion regarding the sliding fee schedules for the SPED program, which was issued on December 22, 2003, was received in our office on December 24th. Aging Services immediately began adjusting the fee schedules and issued a policy memo on December 30th to all County Social Service Boards (see attachment).

During the past three weeks, we have begun the process of reviewing each client's financial situation for any adjustments needed to conform with the Attorney General's opinion.

At this time, we approximate that 225 people will have a service fee reduction based on the revised sliding fee scales. The full impact of the Attorney General's opinion will not be available for a few more weeks.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time.